

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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TAGS: SHUM, CD
SUBJECT: 1978 HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT

REF: STATE 212861

A. CHAD:

THE END OF AUGUST WITNESSED THE DISSOLUTION OF CHAD'S
THREE YEAR OLD MILITARY GOVERNMENT AND THE INSTITUTION OF
A FUNDAMENTAL CHARTER TO GOVERN THE COUNTRY UNTIL A
PERMANENT CONSTITUTION IS ADOPTED AND AN ELECTED CIVILIAN
REGIME TAKES OVER. AN APPARENTLY WEAKENING CIVIL WAR
CONTINUES TO BE WAGED AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT BY LIBYAN-BACKED
ISLAMIC REGELS WHO NOW CONTROL THE NORTHERN HALF OF THE COUNTRY
DESPITE THIS WAR, CHAD MAINTAINED A GOOD RECORD
ON HUMAN RIGHTS. DURING THE PAST YEAR, ALL BUT ONE OF THOSE
IMPRISONED FROM THE REGIME OF FORMER PRESIDENT TOMBALBAYE
WERE RELEASED OR TRIED IN FAIR AND OPEN HEARINGS. A LEGAL CASE IS
BEING PREPARED AGAINST THE ONE FORMER MINISTER STILL IN DETENTION.
APPROXIMATELY TWENTY FROLINAT SYMPATHIZERS, INCLUDING A
FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE, WERE ROUNDED
UP LAST SPRING IN NDJAMENA AS SUSPECTED MEMBERS OF AN
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URBAN TERRORIST RING. THEY CONTINUE TO BE HELD
FOR INVESTIGATION. AMONG THE PRINCIPAL POLICY PLANKS OF THE
NEW FUNDAMENTAL CHARTER IS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A
DEMOCRACY WHICH GUARANTEES LIBERTY AND FUNDAMENTAL
RIGHTS OF THE INDIVIDUAL, SECULARITY OF THE STATE AND
EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION OF ALL IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

B. 1. RESPECT FOR THE INTEGRITY OF THE PERSON;

A. TORTURE IS NOT SYSTEMATICALLY PRACTICED IN CHAD, ALTHOUGH PRISONERS ARE SOMETIMES ABUSED AT THE TIME OF ARREST XLR MAY BE MISTREATED DURING INTERROGATION.

B. CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT HAS NOT BEEN A CONDITION OF CHADIAN IMPRISONMENT ALTHOUGH ITS JAILS ARE DIRTY AND UNCOMFORTABLE.

C. ARBITRARY ARREST IS POSSIBLE UNDER SUCURITY LAWS AND SUSPECTS MAY BE HELD LONG PERIODS FOR PRE-TRIAL INVESTIGATION. THIS LATTER ALSO MAY OCCUR UNDER ORDINARY CRIMINAL PROCEDURES.

D. TRIALS ARE PUBLIC IN COMMON COURTS, BUT SECURITY GND MILITARY MATTERS ARE TRIED BEFORE CLOSED MILITARY TRIBUNALS.

E. INVASION OF THE HOME IS POSSIBLE UNDER ANTI-TERRORIST SECURITY MEASURES.

2. GOVERNMENT POLICIES RELATING TO FULFILLMENT OF VITAL HUMAN NEEDS.

THE GOVERNMENT OF CHAD IS COMMITTED TO MAXIMIZING SATISFACTION OF VITAL HUMAN NEEDS SUCH AS FOOD, SHELTER, HEALTH SERVICE IS CONSIDERED A BASIC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HUMAN RIGHT AND CARE IS FREE AT PUBLIC HELATH CENTERS, BUT THESE ARE LOCATED ONLY IN URBAN AREAS AND MAJOR VILLAGES. SCARCERESOURCES PREVENT ESTABLISHING UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION, BUT GOVERNMENT EDUCATION REFORM IS COMMITTED TO THE WIDEST POSSIBL EXTENSION. GOVERNMENT FOOD POLICY HAS BEEN LARGELY ONE OF COORDINATING FAMINE RELIEF, BUT IT IS WORKING ON PLANS FOR A GRAIN STABILIZATION FUND AND AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE. THE TAX SYSTEM IS MODERATELY REGRESSIVE, BUT MOST OF THE POPULATION LIVES AT THE SUBSISTENCE LEVEL AND IS NOT AFFECTED. CORRUPTION IS NOT A SERIOUS PROBLEM IN CHAD.

3. CIVIL AND POLITICAL LIBERTIES:

A. FREEDOM OF RELIGION IS GUARANTEED IN THE NEW FUNDAMENTAL CHARTER AND WAS ALSO A BASIC TENET OF THE PREVIOUS MILITARY GOVERNMENT. FREEDOM OF SPEECH, PRESS AND ASSEMBLY ARE GUARANTEED IN THEORY, BUT STUDENTS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED FOR DISTRIBUTING ANTI-GOVERNMENT TRACTS AND OTHER INDIVIDUALS CRITICIZED FOR PUBLICIZING THEIRDIS-SATISFACTION WITH OFFICIAL POLICIES.

B. FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT WITHIN THE COUNTRY IS
CURTAILED BECAUSE OF ARMED REBELLION AND BANDITRY IN
SEVERAL REGIONS. EMIGRATION AND FOREIGN TRAVEL ARE
CONTROLLED, BUT NOT IN REPRESSIVE FASHION.

C. THE FUNDAMENTAL CHARTER SETS AS A GOAL UNIVERSAL
PARTICIPATION IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS. TO DATE, HOWEVER,
THERE ARE NO ELECTORAL PROCEDURES, POLITICAL PARTIES,
TRADE UNIONS OR ORTHER MECHANISMS FOR PARTICIPATION. THERE
IS NO DISCRIMINATION BY SEX, RACE OR CASTE.

4. GOVERNMENTAL ATTITUDE TOWARD NGO
INVESTIGATION:
WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY ATTEMPTS BY A NON-GOVERNMENTAL
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ORGANIZATION TO INVESTIGATE ALLEGED VIOLATIONS IN CHAD.
BRADFORD

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